



St John Southworth's RC Parish
at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY

Parish Priest:

Rev Gerard Kelly

Tel: 01282 614859

Email: stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com (click)

**If you would like to receive this
newsletter electronically, then
please email the parish.**

**26th Sunday
in Ordinary Time**



28th September 2025



Click on the moneybox to make a
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's YouTube Channel](#)



Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

JUST IMAGINE!

Just imagine that there was, or is, a man who lives, essentially, to satisfy his own needs: using others according to his own convenience, and using even his own family to help him feel good about himself. Just imagine this same man makes no contribution to the world except that which is a sort of bi-product from his job. Just imagine a man to whom the word 'sacrifice' is repugnant - sacrifices are to be made only when they are absolutely unavoidable. Just imagine that this man pays no attention to anything other than life in this world, considering the Church to be more or less irrelevant. And then, just imagine, that this same man assumes that the life of heaven (if it exists!) will be his eternal destiny and reward! We might think this scenario to be rather absurd, but seemingly, elements of this world-view are all too common in our society, and, in fact might be considered to be the norm! Just imagine that!

Just imagine a man who knows himself to be created by God with a mission and purpose in this world: to develop his full potential in order to spend his life at the service of others. Just imagine a man who wants to leave a mark of love on this world rather than allowing this world to leave a deforming stamp on his soul. Just imagine a man who, like Christ, is fascinated by the power of sacrificial living, and is careful not to be controlled by self-centred desires. Imagine a man who loves the Church, not because it appears to be lovable, but because it was founded by God himself! Imagine a man who uses life in this world to prepare himself for the eternal life of heaven. Imagine this same man dying and going to the grave from which there is no resurrection. Just imagine that! No, it does not seem to be possible!

The story of the rich man and the poor man in this Sunday's Gospel confirms that our sense of justice is not just wishful thinking on our part but arises from the depths of our human nature itself which is created in the image and likeness of God. We do say that there is no justice in this world, and how true this is! However, rewards will be handed out and punishments will be handed down according to God's exquisite and supreme discernment, and merciful justice will ultimately triumph.

In the love of Jesus, Fr Gerard

MEN'S RETREAT DAY - NEXT SATURDAY!

St Chad's, Whittle-le-Woods, Sat 4th October, 10.30 - 4.30pm

Bring a packed lunch—tea and coffee will be provided.

If you require transport then just let me know—phone and email at the top of this page.

*We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire our speaker, Fr Kevin, that, through him,
we may all hear a new word of the Lord!*

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 29th September 2025

Monday 29th Sept	Tuesday 30th Sept	Wednesday 1st Oct	Thursday 2nd Oct	Friday 3rd Oct	Saturday 4th Oct	Sunday 5th Oct
Deacon Theo's First Mass (see below)	Mass 10.00am C.C	Mass 7.00pm H.S	Mass & Exposition 10.00am C.C.	Mass 10.00am C.C.	Men's Retreat Day (see overleaf)	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 28th Sept	Tony Finnan	Joan Penny-Heys
Next Sunday: 5th October	George Winkley	Monica McArdle

Children's Church: **C.C.** Siobhan and Margaret B **H.S.** Anika, Amber / Monica. Doreen, Sammy

Eucharistic Ministry 4th Sunday (C.C. and H.S.)	
Andrew Thomas	Maureen McDermott
Marie Clark	Julie Taylor
Zechariah Javed	Suzanne Kelly
Marcin Zycinski	Ewa Zycinska
Mendoza Family	Catherine Masih

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Helen Keating
 £10.00 Orla Dempsey
 £10.00 Barbara Quinn
 £10.00 Sandra Connelly

£ 80.00 raised for parish funds. Many thanks!

First Mass of Fr Theo Sharrock

Theo Sharrock will be saying his first Mass in the Diocese at St John's, Ivy Street on Monday 29th September at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Recent Payments to CAFOD

(20th July - 14th Sept)

£170.00 Tea & Coffee at C.C
 £10.00 CAFOD Box donations
 £210.80 Tea & Coffee at H.S.

£390.80 – total sent to CAFOD on 26th Sept, 2025



CHURCH COLLECTION

14th and 21st Sept: to be announced
 Standing Orders: approx: £685 p/w.
 Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Wynne Flynn, died recently (St Mary's, Burnley)
 Bernard Mulligan, b'day anniv

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Sept 30th Vincenza Parente (1999)
 Oct 1st Allen Brooker Carey (1991)
 Raymond Whittle (2024)
 Oct 2nd Rev L A Casey (1952)
 Oct 4th Florence Richardson (1995)



*May the souls of all the faithful departed,
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Holy Saviour R.C. Primary School

Holy Saviour's School are inviting parents of children who will start school in September 2026 to come and take a look around the school on Tuesday 14th October at 2.00pm. You will be made very welcome and will be able to ask any questions you might have about the school and what is on offer.

Columban Mission Appeal

A big thank you to the parish community for your generous response to Fr Pat O'Beirne in his appeal on behalf of the Columban Fathers. A total of £1022.40 was collected last week, which is very impressive and much appreciated. Any further envelopes or contributions can be put in the collection boxes at the back of church.

Bishop John's Pastoral Letter

Please see attached pages to this newsletter.



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend John Arnold Bishop of Salford

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for all that you contributed to the initial phase of the Synod. This important initiative begun by Pope Francis is clearly endorsed by Pope Leo. The early phase asked us to establish the priorities facing the universal Church in these changing and challenging times. We must now establish and implement policies for our Diocese.

We have called together teams of people who will help us to focus on the key areas identified during our *Big Listen* events: Community and Outreach, Leadership and Collaboration, Spirituality and Formation, Young People and Schools, and Inclusion. It is hoped that by the First Sunday of Advent we will have some concrete proposals for implementation. We have already begun an exercise which will call together all the priests and deacons of the Diocese, enabling them to share with each other priorities for their ministry and service.

At the heart of all we do must be our relationship with Jesus who, through his gift of the Holy Spirit, calls us into a loving union with him and with each other – this is the basis of our Synodal journey. The prayer of St Richard of Chichester sums it up: 'to know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly day by day'. And so I would like to share with you some brief reflections on the Jesus we meet in the Gospels.

Jesus was a mystic, a contemplative. His baptism was a mystical experience, giving his life a decisive direction. The transfiguration manifested his union with the Father, and his prayer inspired his teaching, integrated his activity and focussed his energies.

Jesus was a prophet, recognised as such by the people who heard him speak and who witnessed his healing ministry. Through his activity and preaching Jesus revealed a God of faithful and compassionate love, a God who freely reaches out to draw people into the circle of His life and love. His compassion is shown in his miracles of healing and especially in the parables of the compassionate Samaritan and the prodigal son.

Jesus is the prophet of service. At a time when rank, status, and prestige, were particularly relevant in the culture of the world, Jesus spoke of service and acted with humility. At the Last Supper he washed his disciples' feet, a gesture of humble and generous service, turning current ways of thinking and living upside down. Even as the Messiah, Jesus understands himself as a servant.

Jesus welcomed everyone and turned no-one away. He ate with tax collectors and sinners, spoke with, and healed, Gentiles and foreigners. A characteristic of his ministry is what we call inclusion. This habit provoked raised eyebrows and critical comment, but of those whom he welcomed, many saw their lives transformed.

Jesus also saw himself as the Good Shepherd, following the Old Testament tradition of understanding God as the shepherd of His people. In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd shows care in searching for it, and joy in finding it again. He describes how the shepherd knows each of his sheep by name and gives his life for them.

The death of Jesus on Calvary is the final expression of his self-giving, the great revelation of his love and the love of the Father. As the Risen Lord he gathers together his despairing disciples and renews his teaching, commissioning them to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News. He promises them the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the Jesus of our lives. We are his contemporary disciples. This is the Jesus who stays with us on all our journeys.

The implementation process of the Synod has begun with our clergy, but the invitation is to everyone to help discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the universal Church and to the family of the Diocese of Salford. We will continue to listen to each other and learn how we are to witness to the Good News.

This is the time for all members of the Church, clergy and lay, man or woman, young or old, married, single or divorced, of whatever sexuality, to take up the command of Jesus to proclaim the Gospel in all parts of their everyday lives – to be missionary disciples. It will require prayer, respect, and listening so that we can chart the way ahead.

As Pope Leo says, 'Synodality speaks to us of a road ahead for where there is the Spirit, there is movement, a journey to be made. We are a people on the move. This does not set us apart but unites us to humanity'.

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey

With my prayers and blessing

+John Arnold

Bishop of Salford